

Andrew Jackson to David Holmes, February 21, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GOVERNOR HOLMES.¹

¹ As here reproduced we have the draft of this letter in Jackson's handwriting. It is from the Jackson MSS. The letter sent, a copy signed by Jackson, is in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

New Orleans, February 21, 1815. "11 oclock A. M."

D'r Sir: you will please on the recpt of this to forward to this place in the shortest Possible time the British Prisoners now at or near Natchez or Washington.

I have this moment recd. a letter from admiral cochrane inclosing me a Bulletine (as he calls it from london) and congratulating me on peace being about to be established between our two Governments. The following is the Bulletine.²

² See p. 170, *ante*.

"Foreign office Decbr. 26th 1814

"My lord I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that Mr. A. S. Baker has arived at this office this morning from Ghent, with the intelligence that a treaty of peace was signed between his majesty and the u states of america by the respective plenipotentiaries at that place on the 24th instant

"It is at the same time my duty to acquaint your lordship, that it is understood by the treaty that hostilities will cease as soon as it shall have been ratified by the President of the

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united states as well as by the Prince regent in the name and on behalf of his majesty I have the honor to be my Lord, your Lordships most obedient humble Bathurst ”

“To the right honorble the Lord Mayor”

such is the prospects of peace he congratulates me on. I have Just just wrote him making the enquiry how far we are to view hostilities to exist under present circumstances. I am prepared for any thing war or peace. If an honourable peace I hail it with heartfelt satisfaction, if dishonourable it will meet my hearty imprecations. But the Lords will be done. The fall of Fort Bowyer is truly grating to my feelings. If Lawrence had made such a defence as he be made before what Laurels he would have added to his Brow but I am fearfull his military fame is forever Blasted. The commanders of the British forces on this station has made an offer of exchange and furnished me with the roster of the Prisoners taken at Fort Bowyer agregate 366. I wish to forward the prisoners, to regain these men, in case the[y] again attempt to invade us, that I may make those men regain what reputation they have lost in the fall of the Fort. Let Major Mitchel be well watched, and have but little conversation with the citizens, altho I wish him treated as a prisoner ought to be that is with humanity altho much of his conduct as represented to me have been inconsistant with that of an officer or gentleman. The Prisoners will have to be well guarded, or they will desert. They hate the idea of returning or being exchanged.

with my best wishes I am respectfully yr mo obdt. serv.